SPARK GAP

Vol. 42, Issue 11, November 2025 ***MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities***

On Our MARC:

The M.A.R.C. Monthly meeting is this Saturday morning at 8:00AM at the Johnson County REMC in the Community Room. The location is 750 International Drive Franklin, IN. There is plenty of parking close to the building and please feel free to bring a friend with you.

…... Bob N9SIU, MARC Spark Gap Editor

CLUB DUES FOR 2025 - 2026

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2025.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

WB9GCV - Jim Jeffery
W9YD - John Wampner
WC9G - Tim Aldridge
WS9H - Rhonda Curtis
AD9CR - Kyle Burns

NOTICE

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN
AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED BY THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS...
HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong.
We suggest you call Western Union.
This is strictly a hobby... we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios, or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.

Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.
It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.

An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled, electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

FURTHERMORE...
IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

Speak in a low and soothing tone.
Do not disagree with me in any manner.
Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS,
SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC.

I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY
ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

Weather Ops-ervations
by KC9NJM

As we look ahead to falling leaves, falling temperatures, and increasing winds, we will start to hear our local meteorologists giving us projected wind chill temperatures. Sometimes its easy to forget that our winter experience is not just measured by the temps that we read on our thermometers, but also from the winds driving our anemometers.

The NWS describes wind chill as how cold people and animals feel when outside and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by temperature and wind.

While the science and mathematics behind calculating windchill would be daunting if we had to do it every time we stepped outside. The good news is that NWS has done the hard work for us. They have produced a wind chill chart that is readily accessible and can be found at https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-wind-chill-chart. When using the chart, it is possible to find the wind chill for any combination of temperatures and wind speeds between +40 to -40 degrees F. and 5 to 60 mph. The chart also projects frostbite exposure times at the various temp and wind combinations.

Along with the wind chill chart there are many other links to valuable information for winter weather and related topics. I would encourage everyone to take a look at this site, as well as, the information that NWS Indy will be posting for Winter Weather Preparedness Week, Nov. 9-15, at https://www.weather.gov/ind/WinterWxWeek.

Stay warm and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sources: NWS Indy (www.weather.gov/ind); NOAA (www.noaa.gov).

Two operating tips for new POTA CW Ops

By Dan KB6NU

One of the cool things about Parks on the Air (POTA) is that the simple exchange and lack of rules is encouraging some operators to try their hand at CW. Not only are some of newer operators working POTA, they're also making regular CW QSOs as well. This is great for all CW ops as it increases activity on the bands.

The problem is that newer ops are not often familiar with common operating procedures, and the lack of rules can be confusing to new ops. For example, the POTA protocol is for "hunters" to send their call once when responding to a CQ POTA. Most of the time, the activators are able to get the call the first time, but if there is some fading or several stations call at the same, they might miss the call or not get the complete call.

When that happens, the protocol is for the CQing station to send "?" or "QRZ?" This means that the hunter should repeat their call sign. Many newer operators don't seem to understand this, though, and they get confused. So, if you're hunting, and you hear "?" or "QRZ?" jump right in there again with your call sign.

If the activator sends a partial call sign followed by a question mark, only reply if that partial call sign matches your call sign. For example, if an activator sent "KEB?" I'd know not to respond because that string isn't part of my call sign. On the other hand, if the activator sent "KB6?" I'd know that they heard me, and I'd' jump right in and send my call sign again. I'd maybe even send it twice for good measure.

Be patient

My second tip is to be patient with an activator. If they don't reply to you on the first call, try again. Any number of things might cause an activator to not hear you, or they may hear you, but decide to reply to someone else first. Don't disappear on the activator. Just wait till they've completed the QSO and try again. The activator wants to work you as much as you want to contact them.

When you call the second time, maybe try sending a little slower. That might help the activator pick you out of the noise or the pileup.

These are some tips that I've picked up over the years. I hope that you found them useful, and that they will help you make more CW POTA contacts.

ARRL Introduces New LIVE Online Course for Ham Radio Licensing

..... ARRL News November 2025

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has introduced a new, fully-interactive two-day online course for ham radio licensing. The **ARRL Technician Class LIVE Video Course** includes everything needed to prepare for the FCC Technician Class amateur radio license exam. Enrollment is open now for the inaugural course, which will take place December 20 - 21, 2025.

Join ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, for this interactive online class. “We’re going to have fun!,” said Greene. “I’ll guide you through operating your first ham radio to how to communicate through amateur radio satellites. We are going to get fully immersed in every question and answer with the info you need to pass the test!”

In addition to live instruction, course participants will receive the popular *Technician Class* prep book authored by ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, which has helped thousands of new hams get licensed with fast results. One-year of ARRL Membership is also included, ensuring these new hams will have quick access to all ARRL benefits, services, and programs.

Course Includes:

- **Two days of LIVE instruction** with expert ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF
- ***Technician Class* prep book** by Gordon West, WB6NOA
- **One-year of ARRL Membership**

Those who remember ARRL’s recorded video courses of the past will recall how valuable it is to *see and hear* lively video instruction. This new course will ensure students have an even more personal, interactive experience. Greene will present the material in bite-sized sections, demonstrating just how much fun amateur radio is!

Visit the ARRL Shop to complete the paid enrollment for a special introductory price of $99. Registrants will receive a follow-up email with instructions for registering for the

live video course after completing your order. If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact the ARRL Education and Learning Department at 860-594-0285 or email **ead@arrl.org**.

About ARRL®

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® was founded in 1914 as The American Radio Relay League, and is a noncommercial organization of radio amateurs. ARRL's mission is to promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. ARRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active radio amateurs (or "hams") in the US and has a proud history of achievement as the standard bearer in amateur radio affairs. ARRL is also the Secretariat of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). ARRL supports members with opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve their local communities. For more information about ARRL and amateur radio, visit www.arrl.org.

2025 Hamfests List

11/15-16/2025 - Ft Wayne Hamfest

- `Confirmed`

- Location: Fort Wayne, IN
- Address: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
- 4000 Parnell Ave
- Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Talk-In: 146.88-
- Website: http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

11/29/2025 WVARA Turkeyfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds
- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA

Website: W9UUU.org

…..... **More Hamfests coming 2026!!!!**

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131
Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.
See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

MARC OFFICERS

President	Tim Aldridge	WC9G	president@midstatehams.org
Vice President	Jim Bryant	KD9WVD	vicepresident@midstatehams.org
Secretary	Jim Adams	KB9JMU	secretary@midstatehams.org
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Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR wb9chr@aol.com
Club PIO: Rusty Kirts – N9LLP muse622@gmail.com

W9MID Repeaters: 146.835 – (PL 151.4) Official SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County
443.525 + (PL 151.4) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES members and ALL RADIO AMATURES
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 PL Input Tone)

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857 Lionshead Lane
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Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU
Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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